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### **Sen. Toy sponsors donation drive for hurricane evacuees**

**LANSING** – State Sen. Laura M. Toy, R-Livonia, announced today that she is sponsoring a donation drive to collect toiletry items, supplies which are sorely needed according to relief agencies, for families displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

“The American Red Cross estimates that more than 3,000 people have been relocated to Michigan from the disaster area,” Sen. Toy said. “This is just one way to help them as they try to rebuild their lives in our state.”

Requested items include combs/hairbrushes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, personal hygiene products, diapers, wipes and other related necessities. Donations will be accepted Friday, Sept. 23 through Friday, Oct. 7.

Residents can drop off their donations at the following locations:

#### **Garden City**

- Gordon Chevrolet, 31850 Ford Road (between Venoy and Merriman roads)
- Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman Road (just south of Ford Road)

#### **Livonia**

- Cardwell Florist, 32109 Plymouth Road (between Farmington and Merriman roads)
- Leon’s Family Dining, 28904 Seven Mile (east of Middlebelt, north side of road)
- House of Leon, 29041 Seven Mile (east of Middlebelt, south side of road)
- St. Mary’s Church, 18200 Merriman Road (just north of Six Mile)

#### **Redford**

- Redford Inn, 25800 Five Mile (corner of Five Mile and Beech Daly Road)
- St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 Six Mile (east of Beech Daly Road; 9 a.m. to noon only)

#### **Westland**

- Leon’s Family Dining, 303 S. Wayne Road (just south of Cherry Hill)

“I would like to thank these partners in our community who have generously agreed to accept donations,” Sen. Toy said. “I know the residents of our area will soon respond in kind with their own generosity.”

Sen. Toy has taken a lead in the Senate to assist Americans affected by the national tragedy. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Sen. Toy moved quickly to help secure funding to support Michigan National Guard troops deployed to Louisiana and Mississippi to aid in relief and recovery efforts.

Last week Sen. Toy sponsored an amendment to the state school aid budget that will ensure local school districts receive funding for enrolled students who have been relocated to Michigan due to a natural disaster.

“Our state’s budget may be tight, but when your neighbors are in need, you help them,” Sen. Toy said. “That’s just what Americans do.”

Those wishing to make a monetary donation can contact the Salvation Army ([www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org); 1-800-SAL-ARMY), the American Red Cross ([www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org); 1-800-HELP-NOW), or the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund ([www.bushclintonkatrinafund.org](http://www.bushclintonkatrinafund.org)).

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